

UNITED STATES PHARMACOPOEIAL CONVENTION.

President Horatio C. Wood has appointed the following committee on credentials and to make arrangements for the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, which will be held in Washington, D. C., beginning Tuesday, May 10, 1910. Professor O. T. Osborne (chairman) Yale University, New Haven, Conn.; Dr. H. C. Wood, Jr., University of Pennsylvania, Medical Department, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mr. L. S. Hilton, Washington, D. C.; Mr. W. L. Cliffe, Philadelphia, Pa. and Dr. James H. Beal, Scio, Ohio.

The following officers of the convention are ex-officio members of the committee: President, H. C. Wood, Sr., University of Pennsylvania, Medical Department, Philadelphia, Pa.; secretary, Dr. H. M. Whelpley, Washington University, Medical Department, St. Louis, and assistant secretary, Dr. Murray Galt Motter, Hygienic Laboratory, Washington, D. C.

TROPICAL MEDICINE.

The New York Post-Graduate Medical School is establishing in its new buildings a full equipment of wards and laboratories for the teaching of Tropical Medicine. The department is being conducted under the co-operation of the U. S. Army, Navy and Public Health services, who detail officers from their respective medical corps to assist in the conduct of the laboratory and clinical courses.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Principles and Practise of Medicine. By Wm. Osler, M. D. Publisher, D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1909.

Osler's Practise of Medicine has long been one of the classics of American medicine, and this country is still proud to claim it, even though its illustrious author now makes his revisions from a foreign land. The last one of these, constituting the seventh edition of the book, has recently been issued. It brings the subject matter thoroughly up-to-date, incorporating the many additions that have been made to our knowledge during the past three years since the previous edition appeared. For one who has used this book as a guide in teaching for the past fifteen years, who during these years has read it all and parts of it many times, who has also had the privilege of becoming familiar with the author's methods of teaching at first hand as well as by reading, it will perhaps be excusable if no word is said except in praise and appreciation. There is no other text-book on medicine in the English language equal to this, as there is no other teacher equal to Osler. Many qualities combine to make this work of inestimable value, but these qualities are after all those of the man who writes the work. His immense experience, his erudition, his clear method of thinking and of presenting his subject, his simplicity of style and absence of diffuseness, his sense of perspective, his kindly sympathy and above all his hopefulness and enthusiasm unite to make this book one that has no counterpart. This last edition has all the good qualities of the old ones, recognized the world over, ever since the first appeared. In addition it contains many recent advances in medical science heretofore scattered throughout journals and not incorporated in any one text-book. It has always been the best and this edition only maintains the long established supremacy. To pick flaws is always possible with any work of art; but to admire the greatness of a masterpiece and to be delighted by its perfections is always a more profitable attitude of mind.

W. F. C.

Clinical Treatises on the Pathology and Therapy of Disorders of Metabolism and Nutrition. Translated by Nellis Barnes Foster. Part 8. Gout by Prof. Dr. H. Strauss.

The present monograph attempts to give a review of the present state of our knowledge on the metabolism in gout. The formation and excretion of uric acid is the center around which Strauss builds up the biochemical structure of gout. Recent researches have shed a great deal of light on the formation and excretion of uric acid; its origin from the purin-bases, its formation in the endo—and exogenous part are clearly discussed. The recent work of Brugsch and Schlittenhelm demonstrating the retardation in the excretion of uric acid of exogenous origin and the value of this phenomenon for diagnostic purposes is accepted.

The lecture of the book while complete as to the data, does not satisfy our desire for a clear exposé. This, however, is more due to the unsatisfactory state of our knowledge in regard to the place of uric acid in the pathology of gout than to Prof. Strauss.

Several errors may be corrected in a second edition. The opinion that caffeine is transformed into uric acid, advocated by Strauss, cannot be accepted in view of the work of Bondsynski.

E. S.

The Cure of Rupture by Paraffin Injections. By Chas. C. Miller, M. D. Publishers, Oak Printing Company, Chicago.

In this book of 80 small pages, the author endeavors to justify a procedure which has met with considerable censure from many surgeons who have had occasion to note and rectify the mishaps of the injection treatment of hernia. No reference is made to diagnosis and the anatomical study of hernia is deemed totally superfluous. Those who are interested in the methods of many advertising "specialists" will find here a clear description of the mode of using paraffin. Before treating a hernia, the author advises "making numerous injections into the carcass of a small animal—cat, dog, rabbit or chicken." Exceedingly brief histories are given of ten patients treated by injections of paraffin. In most all of these cases the last examination was made within two or two and a half months after the injections!

In conclusion the author states that he has "felt no hesitancy in injecting cases which promised a fair degree of success, realizing full well that untoward symptoms of a local character may be overcome by free dissection, removal of the paraffin and restoration of the inguinal canal by the usual surgical means."

D. T.

Clinical Treatises on the Symptomatology and Diagnosis of Disorders of Respiration and Circulation. By E. von Neusser. Translated by Andrew MacFarloue. Part 3. Angina pectoris.

The present volume, devoted to the discussion of symptomatology, diagnosis and treatment of angina pectoris, presents one of the most complicated and discussed chapters of internal medicine in a very lucid manner. Like all the writings of the celebrated diagnostician, it is characterized by a clear exposé of the anatomical, pathological and physiological points involved in the pathogenesis of angina pectoris. It is an intellectual pleasure to read the discussion of the cases published to illustrate his views; free from all schematic and stereotyped diagnostic formulas, he develops his views based on the application of physiological data to the pathological conditions. Thorough knowledge of the literature published by the writers of the last century makes this treatise an exceedingly valuable one.

In the discussion of the theory of angina pectoris we miss a mention of Head's and Mackenzie's views, which seem to be now generally accepted.

E. S.